Vol. VIII. Numb. 55

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Practice of some high-flying Collectors, and others of those Principles, to defeat the good Design of the Briefs for the Palatines. *Some of the Motives that induce ill minded People to hinder the Settlement of these poor Strangers. Farther Arguments in Defence of the Naturalization-Act, and increasing the Number of our People, from Sheriff* Bethel *and Dr.* Davenant. *On the Care of the Lords Commissioners to provide for such of the* Palatines *as fall sick, and to prevent their being a Charge to Parishes. A brief Abstract of the annual Increase and Decrease of People in* England.

From Saturday, August 6. to Wednesday, August 10. 1709.

Country-m. YOU know that in our last, Master, we talk'd of the Wisdom of the Order publish'd in the *Gazette* by the Lords Commissioners, and others, appointed to take Care of the *Palatines*, for preventing their being cheated of any part of the Brief-Money; but notwithstanding the Care taken by the Government, and those worthy Persons in the Commission, I understand there are some Church-wardens, and others, employ'd in collecting the Money, that do all they can to obstruct the good Design of the Briefs, for the Relief of these poor People. I was told by one who saw it, Master, that a certain high-flying Church-warden, who went about with Orders to collect that Brief-Money, did it in such a Manner, as plainly shew'd he was no Friend to them, and did not care whether the People contributed any Thing towards it or not; for he would come to the Peoples Doors, or into their Houses, ask if they wou'd give any Thing, and go off again, without giving them Time to answer.

Obs. 'Tis impossible for the Wit of Man, *Roger*, to contrive any Order or Law so well, but ill minded People will find a Way to elude it. However, those who know any such Practice, ought to send the Names of the Persons to the Lords Commissioners, that they may be branded with such a Mark of Infamy as they deserve. The Clergy-men who go about with the Briefs, ought not to be satisfy'd with what they themselves or others may have said from the Pulpit, to stir up the Peoples Charity on this Occasion, but ought to press the Inhabitants to it at their respective Houses, and to take Care, that no indirect Practices be us'd by any of the Collectors, to hinder the Effect of the Briefs. I am sorry there are so many People among us, *Roger*, who take both open and secret Methods to hinder the Settlement of those poor *Germans*, to the Advantage of the Nation, but especially for the Growth of those Principles from which it proceeds; some do it out of Hatred to the Government, and therefore encourage the Clamour against them, on purpose to raise Discontents among the People about it, in order to make the Government uneasy. Others do it out of Hatred to those poor People, and especially to the Majority of them, who are Protestants, because tho' they agree with us in Doctrine, they were educated in another way of Church-Government and Discipline; and one principal Reason of their Aversion to them, is, because of their Constancy in their Devotion, and particularly in singing of Psalms, for which they brand them as a Parcel of Fanaticks, and as too much akin to our Presbyterians. Others oppose their Settlement in separate Colonies upon that very Account, because then they must necessarily have Places for publick Worship, according to their own Way. And as that sort of Men, generally speaking, are Strangers to all Religion themselves, except it be Forms which they make use of more out of Fashion than Conscience, they hate the very Practice of Religion in others, and upon that Account are such inveterate Enemies to our own moderate Church-men. Some again obstruct the Settlement of the *Palatines* out of Hatred to the Whigs, because they were chiefly instrumental in procuring the Naturalization-Act; against which they have their silly Objections ready form'd to make Use of at next Elections, to brand the Whigs as having brought over a Multitude of foreign Beggars, to eat the Bread out of the Mouths of our own Poor, and to set up more separate Places of Worship, as if we had not too many Beggars and Dissenters of our own already.

Country-m. I thought there was something in it, which made a certain Set of Men be for dispersing these poor *Palatines* at any Rate, rather than have them [illegible] in Colonies. They had rather those [illegible] should live without God in the World, than the Use of publick Ordinances, than that they should be allow'd the Liberty of Worship, according to their own Way; for which these People can have no publick Opportunity, when scatter'd about. They know, Master, from their own Experience, that the best Way to make Buttresses to what they call their Church, is to keep as many People on the Outside, and to let as few come within it, as they can.

Obs. 'Tis too true to make a Jest on, *Roger*. We know, that some of those great Champions, who set up themselves as Top-Zealots for the Church, and made the loudest Noise of her being in Danger, did not feel it from their own certain Knowledge, because they came not thither often enough to know what was done within. They frequented the *Devil*, and other Taverns, more than Prayers and Sermons, and were acted by the Spirit of Wine and Jacobitism, which they would have pawn'd upon the Nation for the Spirit of the Church.

Country-m. Ben't too censorious, Master; the Faction will charge you with Slander.

Obs. I don't value their Charge, *Roger*; I have too much Ground for what I say. The whole Nation is Witness, that their *Leeys*, their *Dodwells*, their *Memorialists*, and others that make such rueful Crys of the Danger of the Church, are such as mortally hate the Church of *England* as by Law establish'd, condemn her as schismatical, rail against as good Bishops as ever she was bless'd with; as Intruders and Usurpers, and brand their Moderation towards Dissenters, as Favour to Faction and Schism, nay, their Champion, the *Rehearser*, in express Terms publish to the World, that they countenanc'd a *Rebellion against Heaven like that of Korah*: Nor can you tell me of any Motion among the Party against Jacobite Conventicles, *Roger*, while they carry'd on their Bill against Occasional Conformity with so much Fury in three successive Sessions of Parliament.

Country-m. Well, Master, since 'tis chiefly the Spirit of that Party which obstructs the Settlement of the *Palatines*, I think it should stir up all true Protestants and Revolution-Men, to endeavour the settling of 'em in such a Manner, as may remove those trifling and malicious Objections, and keep up the Credit of our Naturalization-Act.

Obs.

Obſ. I am very ſorry, *Roger*, that at this Time of Day, there ſhould be need of any Arguments to prove that to be an Advantage, which our wiſeſt and greateſt Men have ever eſteem'd ſo, and wrote for it accordingly. I have on other Occaſions made honourable Mention of the late Sheriff *Bethel*, and for the Conviction even of ſome Whigs, who I find are carry'd away by the preſent unreaſonable Clamour, ſhall quote ſomething from him to this Purpoſe now. In his *Intereſt of* England *ſtated*, pag. 30. he argues againſt Impoſition upon Conſcience, 'Becauſe it hinder'd 'the Reſort of Strangers, and ſo the Increaſe of 'People, *whereof* England *is greatly wanting*, and 'comes ſo far ſhort of *Holland* in Numbers, where-'by that Province alone is made more conſiderable 'than all the other ſix: That whereas they are cal-'culated to have ſix Souls for one Acre of Ground, '*England* I fear has hardly one for ten, and the 'Riches of *Holland*, under ſuch Multitudes as the 'Proviſions of their own Country, are ſaid not to 'be ſufficient to nouriſh above an 8th Part of their 'People, (all the reſt being ſupply'd by the Sea, 'and Trade with other Countries) argues Plenty 'of Inhabitants to be a Benefit to trading Coun-'tries. I have hinted before, *Roger*, that the judicious Sir *William Temple* was alſo of that Opinion; ſo that I hope the Mouths of ſuch Whigs as join in the unreaſonable Clamour againſt the Naturalization-Act, will be ſtopt by the Evidence of two ſuch great Authors. And for the Sake of others, I ſhall quote ſomewhat farther from Dr. *Davenant*, whoſe Writings they formerly very much admir'd.

Country-m. Pray do, Maſter, for it grieves me to hear that the Clamours on this Head do rather increaſe than diminiſh. In the mean Time I cannot but give my Bleſſing to the Lords Commiſſioners and others appointed to take Care of the *Palatines*, for the Advertiſement they have publiſh'd in the *Gazette*, that for the Encouragement of ſuch as may have Occaſion to employ thoſe poor People, they will take Care that ſuch of 'em as ſhall become unable, by Sickneſs or otherwiſe, to get their Livings, ſhall be provided for, and that no Pariſh ſhall be burden'd with them. This I hope will take off a great deal of Clamour, and in a great Meaſure prevent thoſe Objections which aroſe from the Imperfections of our Laws, with Relation to the Poor, 'till the Legiſlature can ſupply thoſe Defects.

Obſ. I ſay Amen to your Bleſſing, *Roger*, and ſhall go on with my Quotation from the Doctor. In his *Eſſay upon Trade*, pag. 52. he ſays, "As to 'our Quantity of Land, in Relation to its Inha-'bitants, we ſeem now to have about ſeven Acres 'and a quarter *per* Head; but there are many 'Reaſons to think that *England* is capable of nouriſhing double its preſent Number of People, 'which ſuppoſing them now to be 5500000, would 'be 11000000, and even then there will be as many Acres *per* Head as they have in *Holland*; and 'when we have this Complement of Men, either 'in the natural Courſe of Time, or ſooner, by the 'Help of good Conduct, we ſhall be in a State of 'Power to deal with any Strength in *Europe*. In 'the natural Courſe of Time, this cannot happen 'in a great While, but the common Progreſſion of 'Things may be haſten'd by Art; ſo that if we are 'ſtudious to preſerve and increaſe our People, per-'adventure, in not many Years we may have Hands 'enough not only to make us ſafe from the Inſults 'of others, but to render us formidable to all our 'Neighbours; and Men being the trueſt Strength 'and Riches of a Country, the Councils of all wiſe 'States ſhould tend to obtaining and keeping to-'gether as many as the Land will nouriſh.

Page 18. he ſays, 'An Act of general Naturali-'zation would likewiſe probably increaſe our 'Numbers very faſt, and repair what Loſs we have 'ſuffer'd in our People by the late War. And I am ſure, *Roger*, our Loſs has been much more conſiderable ſince the Doctor wrote.

He obſerves farther, *Roger*, pag. 13. that, according to Mr. *King*'s Scheme, there's an annual Decreaſe, *i. e.* By Plagues and great Mortalities, at a *Medium* one Year with another, 4000. by War at a *Medium* the like, 3500. by Sea the like, 2500. by our Plantations, over and above the Acceſſion of Foreigners, 1000. In all 11000. Which being deducted from the annual Increaſe of 20000 thro the whole Nation, makes our Increaſe not above 9000 *per Annum*, which will be a great many Years before it amount to what Number we want in Proportion to our Land.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, I am very well ſatisfy'd that were there no more to be ſaid than what you have told me already, our Naturalization-Act will ſtand the Teſt of all Men of Senſe, and manifeſt its Promoters to be good Subjects and Patriots, who have deſerv'd well of their Prince and their Country, and muſt by neceſſary Conſequences prove thoſe who clamour againſt it, and obſtruct the Settlement of the *Palatines* among us, to deſerve quite another Character. I muſt deſire you, Maſter, as ſoon as Conveniency will allow you, to ſay ſomething about employing our own Poor, ſo as they may be an Advantage to the Nation.

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